1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
2	EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION		
3			
4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		
5	Government.		
6	v. Case No. 10-20346		
7	ANTHONY POPE, DEMONDRE LEVELLE MARTIN MICHAEL DEON DAVIS,		
8			
9	DEAUNTE LORENZO PATRICK, ELRICO LAQUAN WELCH,		
10	Defendants.		
11	/		
12			
13	MOTION HEARING		
14			
15	BEFORE THE HONORABLE GERALD E. ROSEN United States District Judge		
16	733 US Courthouse & Federal Building		
17	231 Lafayette Boulevard West Detroit, Michigan Wednesday, November 17, 2010		
18	Wedlebday, November 17, 2010		
19	APPEARANCES:		
20	JOHN O'BRIEN		
21	JEANINE JONES Assistant United States Attorneys		
22	231 W. Lafayette Blvd. Detroit, MI 48226		
23	On behalf of the Government.		
24	To Obtain a Certified Transcript: Carol S. Sapala, RMR, FCRR, CSR		
25	313.961.7552 www.transcriptorders.com		
	Usa v Pope, et al 10-20346		

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Detroit, Michigan
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               Wednesday, November 17, 2010
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               12:55 p.m.
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          THE LAW CLERK: Calling case number 10-20346,
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     United States of America versus Annie Eugene Pope,
 6
     Demondre Martin, Michael Deon Davis, Deaunte Lorenzo
 7
     Patrick and Elrico Laquan Welch.
 8
          THE COURT: Good afternoon.
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          Appearances, starting with the government.
10
          MR. O'BRIEN: John O'Brien on behalf of the United
11
     States.
12
          MS. JONES: Jeanine Jones on behalf of the United
13
     States.
14
          THE COURT: From the defense?
15
          MR. MULLKOFF: Douglas Mullkoff. I represent
16
    Mr. Pope; standing in for Mr. Welch for David Tholen.
17
          MR. SCHULMAN: Sanford Schulman on behalf of
18
    Deaunte Patrick.
          MR. MAGIDSON: Mark Magdison on behalf of Demondre
19
20
    Martin, defendant two, seated to my left.
21
          MS. MANNERINO: Afternoon.
22
          Maria Mannarino on behalf of Michael Davis, defendant
23
    number three, who is seated to my left.
24
          THE COURT: All right. So the record should
25
    reflect several things.
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Motion for 404(b) and 609 Evidence

First, Mr. Tholen was not able to be with us, but he did participate by phone in the conference that I had with counsel in chambers and indicated that Mr. Mullkoff was -- had his proxy to participate in the motion practice here this afternoon.

Beyond that, I want to take -- we have a number of different motions scheduled for today. And I want to take what I would consider to be the more readily resolvable ones first, those being the discovery motions, because I think we can make some progress on those pretty quickly.

Let me talk, first, about the renewed request for 404(b) and 609 information.

There was also -- I should add, there was a recently filed motion which the government's not responded by Defendant Davis, also for 404.

MS. JONES: We did respond.

THE COURT: You did respond?

MS. JONES: I responded this morning.

THE COURT: Oh. Better late then never.

MS. JONES: Technically, I had 14 days.

THE COURT: At any rate, even without the benefit of the government's response, I think I can probably deal with these.

The government argues that some of the 404(b) information, particularly prior convictions relating to

Motion for 404(b) and 609 Evidence

drug trafficking or drug activity of these defendants, should be admissible on the issues of intent, motive, plan, preparation.

As I shared with counsel in chambers, it has always been the practice of this Court when it comes to 404(b) issues of this nature, prior specific instances of conduct, whether convicted or not, conduct that is offered on the issue of intent, recognizing the government does have the burden of proving intent as an element, but also recognizing that there's a substantial overlap between the use of prior acts to prove intent and the propensity inference under -- which is under Rule 404(b) prohibited.

And my general policy is that as to specific instances of conduct offered to prove intent, if the only inference from the prior acts -- if the only inference is that if he did it before, he probably intended to do it again, that falls within the proscribed propensity inference that is not permissible under the rules.

Having said that, if the defendants at trial put forth a defense that raises the issue of their intent to participate in this conspiracy, if the defendants affirmatively come forward, and by that I mean either in opening statement, closing argument or by evidence; if they come forward with defenses that raises the question of their intent to participate in this conspiracy, at that

Motion for 404(b) and 609 Evidence

point, the 404(b) information becomes relevant on the issue -- at least on the issue of intent.

So I guess for purposes of the 404(b) question, the defendants hold the key to whether or not that door gets opened or not.

Obviously, that means I can't rule definitively on it here today. So what I'm going to do is simply deny it without prejudice as to the use of this information.

And I want to make sure, though, that the government has -- discloses all possible 404(b) evidence.

And I know that the government is aware of its obligation under Rule 404(b) to provide notice of any 404(b) activity or action prior to trial.

But I'm going to deny the motions without prejudice to the defense to raise it again.

And/or for that matter, if the government wishes to request the Court at trial to introduce 404(b) evidence if it believes the defendants have somehow raised the issue by either opening statement or perhaps in cross examination or through proofs, I'll leave it to the parties to raise that issue once there's an evidentiary context for which the Court can decide it.

Similarly, 609 evidence. Defendant Patrick, I believe, has 609 questions.

I almost never decide 609 issues until I've seen what

Motion for 404(b) and 609 Evidence the evidence looks like so that I can perform the 1 2 balancing act or the balancing test under Rule 609(a)(1); 3 that's particularly true where there are issues of the 4 defendant himself potentially testifying. 5 The question of the identity of the government 6 informant. I don't think that Defendant Martin or the 7 other defendants have joined in or have come forward yet 8 with -- Mr. O'Brien? 9 MR. O'BRIEN: All of that information was mailed 10 out a little over week ago, judge. 11 THE COURT: Well, the government's -- this is a 12 C.I --13 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes. 14 THE COURT: -- 58? 15 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes. THE COURT: You've disclosed his identity? 16 17 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes. 18 THE COURT: Well, that makes that much more easy 19 to rule on. Yes? MR. MULLKOFF: Judge, this would be our motion --20 21 Mr. Pope's motion for discovery of the informant's 22 identity which has been joined by a few of the 23 co-defendants. 24 THE COURT: I thought Defendant Martin had the 25 motion.

Motion For Discovery

I can defer to Mr. Mullkoff. 1 MR. MAGIDSON: 2 THE COURT: Mr. Mullkoff, since you're standing 3 there. 4 MR. MULLKOFF: What I'm going to say is --5 THE COURT: You've already got what you need, 6 though. 7 MR. MULLKOFF: We have -- I'm going to confirm 8 that we got information about the informant; his name, 9 his compensation and related information about his 10 criminal history, so I feel that the substance of what 11 we're looking for has been complied with. I also spoke with Mr. O'Brien and have been assured 12 13 that everything short of grand jury has been given to us. THE COURT: Does that mean, Mr. O'Brien, that you 14 15 intend to have CI-85 testify? 16 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, sir. 17 THE COURT: Well, that was going to be my first 18 question. 19 MR. O'BRIEN: In addition to that, because I'd 20 just like to follow up on a piece of Mr. Magdison's 21 motion or request he and I had been discussing for 22 sometime has to do with the issue of telephone records; 23 telephone calls between the ATF agents, his client, 24 CI-85, Mr. Pope. 25 We ran into a little bit of an issue, judge, because

Motion For Discovery

of the date at which -- against which I was subpoenaing records wasn't the trial date with the request of the phone companies, please produce those in advance.

Perhaps the attorneys could work it out so they don't have to sacrifice an employee to come testify during the trial.

We are in receipt -- at this point I know all the records aren't in yet of over six or 700 pages of records because the agents used their phone for this case, for other cases. I suspect there's also defendant's wives and whoever on there.

We're in the process of sorting all of those phone numbers that are pertinent to this case in a summary form so that the defense has the phone numbers of the incoming-outgoing calls that are specific to the numbers that relate to this case on the agent's calls back and forth to their clients. That has not been produced.

But because we're taking the time to do that, I think the product will be much more useful to both sides and the Court --

THE COURT: That's helpful.

How long do you think it will take you to do that?

MR. O'BRIEN: A week for all the records we have now.

When I say another week, judge, we're talking about

Motion For Discovery

before Thanksgiving next Wednesday.

And then if additional records come in, I do expect a few more, only because there were dates on two of the phone number subpoenas or three of the phone number subpoenas that were seized at the time of the arrest.

And the dates were as -- up to the date of arrest started that day of arrest, we got a bunch of records back said there were no calls. We would expect there would be none.

The phones were seized that day. Now they're going backwards in time into March and February as opposed to forward to November. But that may take a little bit longer.

THE COURT: Mr. Mullkoff, Mr. Magdison, I assume that answers your motions with respect to confidential informant and production of recordings, notes, et cetera.

Is that right?

MR. MAGIDSON: I believe it addresses the issues we raised with respect to that.

THE COURT: And while you're standing or almost standing, Mr. Magdison, have I answered your questions on the *in limine* motion on 404(b) as well?

MR. MAGIDSON: Thank you, Judge. We understand your ruling.

Motion to Disclose Grand Jury Transcripts

THE COURT: Defendant Patrick has a motion to disclose grand jury transcripts and identity of witnesses and informants. This would generally fall within the *Jencks* Act.

Let me ask you, Mr. O'Brien. As you know, my practice is to generally encourage the government to turn over all witness statements, including grand jury testimony, other than in cases involving witness security or a real concern of witness tampering of any sort.

Is that a concern here?

MR. O'BRIEN: It is not.

I would indicate to the Court, given our decision to call CI-85 at trial, then based on phone records, I indicate an interview with that individual only in an effort to make sure we have all of the information about that.

THE COURT: And the statements from those interviews will be turned over?

MR. O'BRIEN: Absolutely. That's a report that doesn't yet exist.

But anything that's created from here forward, I'll turn over immediately; transcripts, grand jury transcripts, we'll make copies of those.

THE COURT: Satisfactory?

MR. SCHULMAN: I'm satisfied.

Motion to Disclose Grand Jury Transcripts

I want to clarify as to our 404(b) and 609, we were simply asking at this point for notice. If there's any notice, he can provide that.

THE COURT: I've ordered him to give notice. But I guess it was Defendant Martin who had the substantive 404(b).

MR. MAGIDSON: We're satisfied.

THE COURT: Although the guidelines that I've provided certainly goes for all defendants on 404(b).

Which brings us to some of the more substantive issues in motions to dismiss. I want to take those -- I want to take three of them together, because they all really involve the same constellation of legal claims.

Defendant Martin's motion to dismiss based on entrapment.

Defendant Welch's motion to dismiss for outrageous conduct or entrapment, failure to state a claim.

And Defendant Patrick's motion to dismiss on the basis of abandonment.

All of these issues would require me to have seen evidence at trial. Let me take, as an example, the entrapment question.

The entrapment question hinges upon whether

Mr. Martin or Mr. Welch had any prior predisposition to

engage in the conspiratorial conduct alleged in the

Motion to Dismiss/Entrapment, Outrageous Conduct, Failure to State a Claim, and Abandonment indictment.

2.2

Before I could make a determination of that, I would have to see the evidence. Obviously, to the extent that a defendant may have had prior drug trafficking activity, that would be very probative of whether or not that defendant had any prior predisposition.

On the issue of abandonment, I think there are serious factual questions here. Given, as I understand it the government's contentions and after reviewing the special agents' affidavit, I think that the defendants' conduct in arguably pulling away from following the undercover agent, Jury, is susceptible of a number of different -- susceptible to a number of different interpretations.

And for me to find abandonment as a matter of law without any evidentiary context whatsoever, would not only be premature, but inappropriate. So I'm going to have to deny that motion.

It seems to me that abandonment is a very precise term of art in which a defendant has to do more than simply not follow somebody to an alleged meeting site.

The defendant has to take affirmative steps to put other co-conspirators on notice, either directly or implicitly that they are no longer part of the conspiracy and have completely abandoned the objectives of the

Motion to Dismiss/Entrapment, Outrageous Conduct, Failure to State a Claim, and Abandonment conspiracy rather than, perhaps, putting them off for another day. So I'm going to have to see some evidence before I can even make that.

2.2

With respect to all three of these motions that I've just delineated, these would be more in the nature of trial motions after the government has completed its proof, if counsel still believes that the government has failed to establish the elements or if counsel continues with its -- with their entrapment defense.

So I'm going to deny these motions again without prejudice to raise them again; probably in the context of a Rule 29.

Defendant Martin's motion to dismiss based on duplicity in the indictment. It's an interesting argument.

There are certainly a number of different crimes that are alleged within the indictment, but I think the law has now become pretty well settled under Braverman versus

United States, as well as a number of other cases, that the mere fact that there are different crimes alleged as part of a larger conspiracy does not constitute duplicity.

Indeed, in almost every -- if you think about it, in almost every charge of conspiracy, there are different and distinct crimes.

The typical crime being a conspiracy to distribute

Motion to Dismiss/Entrapment, Outrageous Conduct, Failure to State a Claim, and Abandonment narcotics which alleges specific narcotic transactions on specific days; those allege specific crimes and also allege a larger conspiracy of which these specific crimes are part. That's basically what we have here.

Even though there are allegations which could be read to allege specific crimes, such as home invasion or conspiracy with the intent to commit home invasion, those are all alleged as part of a larger conspiracy crime; and, therefore, are not subject to a dismissal based on duplicity.

I want to hear arguments from Mr. Patrick's attorney on the severance issue and where the prejudice is that would differentiate this from other conspiracy charges in which one defendant has a lesser role.

Mr. Schulman, do you want to address that?

MR. SCHULMAN: I'll be brief because, obviously, I've articulated those issues in my motions.

The summary would be Mr. Patrick's involvement as alleged by the government is at the end of this long book.

Now they're introducing a book. The jury, by that point, will have heard a tremendous amount of information.

I understand the conspiracy portion opens the door to the entire book, that's the governments answer in principle.

Motion To Sever

But in reality by the time it gets to the last chapter, prejudice is so damaging that it outweighs any kind of argument and persuades juries to think of things that have tied into days and weeks, even months previously.

And that prejudice is the focus of the motion as opposed to the idea of the conspirators to allow the door to be wide open.

THE COURT: I'm confident, Mr. Schulman, that you are a well experienced and highly competent criminal defense lawyer who's tried cases before this Court.

I'm very confident that you will be able to point out Mr. Patrick's relatively alleged limited role in this and the chronology and time for which it allegedly did occur and perhaps even use that to Mr. Patrick's advantage at trial.

As you know, the law is that disparity in the quantities of evidence relating to differing defendants and disparities as to length of time of involvement in a conspiracy, those things are not grounds for severance.

There has to be some really, unduly prejudicial aspect to the nature of the evidence from which there would be a taint or spillover that a much lesser involved defendant would suffer before severance -- rather drastic evidence of severance is appropriate.

Motion To Sever

I guess I would say that based upon what I've seen in this case, although Mr. Patrick didn't show up until late in the game and his role was at least as alleged by the government in the special agent's affidavit, that it doesn't provide grounds for severing him out from the trial.

This is the old rule of in for a penny in for a point. Unfortunately, Mr. Patrick, like many other defendants in a conspiracy, is subject to that role.

MR. SCHULMAN: Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. I think I have now dealt with each of the pending motions.

We should put on the record before I -- Mr. O'Brien?
MR. O'BRIEN: I have one question, judge.

THE COURT: Yes?

MR. O'BRIEN: You said you were going to package three of them together and you spoke about abandonment, entrapment --

THE COURT: The three I was packaging together are Defendant Martin's motion to dismiss on entrapment, Defendant Welch's motion to dismiss for outrageous conduct and entrapment, failure to state a claim and Defendant Pope's motion on abandonment. Those are three I handled separately, the duplicity motion and severance motion.

Defendant Davis' In Limine Motion

Then I handled the discovery motions on Mr. Martin's 404(b) in limine motions.

MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you.

THE COURT: I've also -- so that the record reflects, I've also handled the more recently filed motion by Mr. Davis on 404(b), the *in limine* motion.

MR. SCHULMAN: Judge, not to interrupt.

Is the Court not considering an evidentiary hearing on the abandonment or entrapment?

THE COURT: I don't think an evidentiary hearing would be appropriate here that would effectively require me to make an evidentiary finding that might well be within the province of the jury.

MR. SCHULMAN: Rule 29 requires to use exhaustive resources of a trial as opposed to pretrial. I understand.

THE COURT: We may have to resolve some resources anyway.

MR. SCHULMAN: Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: I do want to put on the record the fact that counsel and the Court have agreed that with respect to the trial date that has been set of December 14th, I'm going to adjourn that.

And the trial date that is set for Mr. Pope individually, that will go forward.

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Mr. Mullkoff, I'd ask you to make sure that you and
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 2
    Mr. Pope have a fulsome discussion of that, the necessity
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     of beginning to prepare.
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          MR. MULLKOFF: Understood.
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          THE COURT: We do have the suppression motion on
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     December 13th that's going forward. Okay?
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          While we're talking about that, I've got a few more
 8
    minutes. What does the government anticipate in terms of
 9
     evidence?
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          MR. O'BRIEN: Two witnesses, Your Honor.
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          THE COURT: Two brief witnesses?
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          MR. O'BRIEN: Yes; be Agent Jury and one of the
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     other agents who was involved in the stop and seizing
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     of evidence from the vehicle.
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          THE COURT: I'll be very interested to learn at
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     that hearing what the basis for the stop was.
          Okay? Anything else?
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          MR. MULLKOFF: For scheduling purposes, ask if the
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19
     government -- if the Court would ask the government
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     about the anticipated length of the drug trial on the
21
     14th.
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          THE COURT: Number of witnesses?
          MR. O'BRIEN: Potentially four, potentially five.
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24
          THE COURT: Four or five; that would include
25
     CI-85?
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          MR. O'BRIEN: He's not part of that trial because
 2
     none of the charged deliveries are -- involved him.
 3
          THE COURT: Good. I won't ask you how many
 4
     witnesses you're going put on, Mr. Mullkoff.
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          MR. MULLKOFF: I'm not prepared to answer that
 6
     question at this time.
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          THE COURT: Since I wasn't asking. Thank you.
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               (This hearing concluded at 2:05 p.m.)
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